

COIN ACTION

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AIRGRAM

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TO : Department of State

INFO : USCINCSO FOR POLAD, Amembassies MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA, DOD

APR 27 7 15 AM 1968

ANALYSIS BRANCH

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: April 27, 1968

SUBJECT: Weekly Internal Security Report: April 19-25, 1968

REF REVIEWED BY *Carj* DATE *207*
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
APR 30 1968

1. The uneasy, partial suspension of hostilities between the insurgents and the clandestine elements of the security forces as a result of the government's new COIN policy moved into its fourth week as no major initiatives were reported from either side.
2. A possible exception to the above was the explosion of 2 bombs in the capital on April 25 and the planting of a third bomb that failed to go off. The first bomb exploded at the offices of the rightist weekly ALERTA causing only superficial damage, and the second blew down an Empresa Electrica pole supporting power lines thus causing a 40-minute black-out in much of the capital. The unexploded bomb was planted in the MLN headquarters. Because targets were "rightist," there is a tendency to blame the FAR; however, there is no evidence as to who was responsible, and it is possible that rightist elements may have done it, seeking to blame the left.
3. Raul Lorenzana and Carlos Padilla were killed on April 19. *[REDACTED]* It is widely believed in all circles that he was killed by the security forces because he literally knew where too many skeletons were hidden. The government, however, put out an official version *[REDACTED]* to the effect that they were killed by unknown men. According to this version the two were spotted entering a downtown church at about 10 AM, April 19. At 8 PM the church was searched and they were found and arrested and taken by car toward the headquarters of the First Corps at the National Police. In route, however, they were overtaken by a black car which opened fire riddling both Lorenzana and Padilla's bodies but "miraculously"

* Lorenzana

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☒ In ☐ Out

Drafted by:

POL:WNewlin:cam:4/26/68

Agents and Classification Approved by:

DCM:MKrebs

POL:MDSmith

Clearances:

POL-1:JWilson (in draft)

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failing to so much as scratch the driver or Col. Noé Delgado, recently transferred chief of the Fourth Corps of the National Police who was also in the car.

4. Another story of interest surrounded Roberto ALEJOS Arzu who with considerable publicity turned himself over to the authorities. He is accused of being involved in the kidnapping of the Archbishop and he had remained in hiding until he got a personal guarantee from the President that he would be safe while he presented his defense. (See separate message on this subject.)

5. Other items of passing interest include: the granting of safe conduct to the 7 persons including Lorenzana's sister and her son in asylum in various embassies thus wiping the slate clean; another raid on the south coast, in Nueva Concepcion in which 2 persons were killed by the bandit gang Los Lobos, which may include some guerrilla elements; and the arrest of 3 men in the capital, 2 of them Mexicans, while they were distributing subversive literature.

6. COMMENT: The question still remains, how long can the peace last. There is no indication that the FAR has given up the fight. On the contrary they are probably using this period to regroup and reorganize. At some point it is inevitable that they will re-enter the lists with vigor and the violence will pick up once more.

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